

# ESTHER

## Let's Be Enemies | Discussion Notes

At this point of the story Esther is Queen and Mordecai has moved up to be in the palace gate but both are still hiding their true identities. In their precarious situations we see the same challenge we have ourselves: do you assimilate to the culture around you or isolate away into a Christian enclave and withdraw from culture.

Read through Jeremiah 29:4-14 together. This is God's blueprint for what it means to live in a culture that is hostile to following Jesus - it is about transforming the culture.

- How do we 'pray for the peace and prosperity of the city' today? Do you do that?
- Are you engaged in trying to transform Bristol or do you lean more toward isolation or assimilation?

One of the challenges we have is that it can be difficult to do this when God seems distant or hidden, just as He is in the story of Esther.

- Have you had periods of life where God felt hidden? What impact did it have on you?
- Why does God feeling distant make walking this third-path of 'transformation' difficult?

We see Mordecai come to a realisation that he can't keep hiding, he need to live truthfully and try to transform the city. Philip said we need to 'do the God thing anyway'.

- What does it look like to 'do the God thing anyway' in your life today?
- What makes this so difficult?